

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00327 151014Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /071 W
-----151017Z 037222 /21

R 150916Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6805
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0327

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, UNSC, PFOR, LT
SUBJECT: THE FARAH MISSION: PROBABLE UN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
ASSISTANCE TO GOL

1. SUMMARY: NEITHER EMBASSY NOR AID INVITED TO FINAL BRIEFING BY FARAH MISSION. AID OFFICERS ATTENDED EARLIER MEETING WITH MISSION, IN WHICH RESIDENT DONORS WERE ASKED FOR THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF PRESENT SITUATION IN LESOTHO AND RECEIVED NO SOLID INDICATION OF FARAH'S PRIORITIES. EMBASSY IS, HOWEVER, IN POSSESSION OF GOL'S COMPLETE PACKAGE OF AID REQUESTS PRESENTED TO FARAH MISSION (COPY BEING POUCHED TO AF/S FOR PERRY). DRAWING ON THIS PACKAGE AND ON BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH GOL OFFICIALS AND OTHER AID DONORS, EMBASSY HAS COMPILED LIST OF LIKELY PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS OF FARAH MISSION, AND HAS IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC PROJECT FOR USG ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF FARAH MISSION WAS TO ASSESS LESOTHO'S NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN LIGHT OF UNSC RESOLUTION 402
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PAGE 02 MASERU 00327 151014Z

(RELATING TO ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES DERIVING FROM LESOTHO-TRANSKEI BORDER PROBLEMS). POST UNDERSTANDS FARAH ATTEMPTED TO STAY WITHIN LIMITS OF MANDATE. FARAH STATED SPECIFICALLY THAT MISSION'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO LESSEN LESOTHO'S DEPENDENCE ON RSA.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES FOLLOWING THREE PROJECTS WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY FARAH MISSION AS TOP PRIORITY:

A. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO MAKE POSSIBLE
ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT AIR CONNECTIONS WITH BLACK-RULED AFRICA.

B. CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR ROAD TO LINK WESTERN SIDE OF COUNTRY
WITH SOUTHEASTERN LESOTHO AND REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON SURFACE
CONNECTION VIA RSA AND TRANSKEI.

C. CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF WHEAT AND MAIZE STORAGE, MILLING
AND MARKETING FACILITIES TO REDUCE LESOTHO'S FOOD DEPENDENCE ON
RSA.

4. IN LIGHT OF USG SUPPORT FOR UNSC RESOLUTION 402, GOL IS
EXPECTING US TO PICK UP OR AT LEAST PROVIDE MAJOR ASSISTANCE FOR
ONE OF THE PROJECTS LISTED ABOVE. IN ADDITION, VISIT OF USAID ROAD
ENGINEER FROM NAIROBI AND HIS PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF QUTHING TO
MPITI ROAD HAS STIMULATED GOL EXPECTATIONS OF USG UNDERWRITING
THIS PARTICULAR PROJECTS.

5. RECOMMENDATION: THAT USG BE PREPARED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO RESPOND
TO FARAH MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS. US CREDIBILITY AND INTERESTS
WOULD SUFFER IF, AFTER SUPPORTING GOL IN SECURITY COUNCIL, THE
US WAS INORDINATELY SLOW AND UNRESPONSIVE IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.
GOL HAS EMPHASIZED IN RECENT MEETINGS WITH EMBOFFS THAT
EXPEDITIOUS APPROVAL AND EARLY ASSISTANCE FOR THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION
WOULD REINFORCE POSITIVE US IMAGE FOSTERED BY UNSC SUPPORT.
WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THE USG AND USAID ARE PREPARED
TO RESPOND TO THIS PRIORITY GOL REQUEST.

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PAGE 03 MASERU 00327 151014Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770356/aaaabxeg.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3098068
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE FARAH MISSION: PROBABLE UN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO GOL
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, LT, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9af980b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009